

Cambridge Committee on Public Planting

Minutes of Meeting, July 13, 2011

The monthly meeting was held as a neighborhood walk to talk about trees and the Urban Forestry operations. In addition to Committee members Mauricio Gomez, Denise Heintze, Kathleen Kelly, Chantal Eide, David Davis, Michael Hanlon, Julianne Schwaner, Maddy MacDowell and Paula Cortes, in attendance were David Lefcourt, City Arborist and Urban Forestry Intern Dustin Mays.

Minutes of last meeting were reviewed, Lisa Peterson's name spelling was corrected, Paula Cortes moved that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Kathleen Kelly, minutes voted and approved.

Dustin was introduced. He is a recent graduate from Virginia Tech University, and will be with the City until the middle of August. The internship is through the Society of Municipal Arborists. He is here to learn, to update the tree inventory in mid-Cambridge, to work with the crew doing tree pruning and removals, to observe contractors, to do tree mapping using Google (following up on some things Mauricio Gomez had suggested), to do tree walks in Mid and East Cambridge, to do You Tube videos, and more ...

There is another intern, Linda Ciesielski is also doing tree inventory and working with GIS. She is a recent MIT Urban Planning graduate, and has a degree in Landscape Architecture from Cornell.

A third intern, Sidia Escobar is doing the Water by Bike program and working with residents and business owners. She attends UMass-Boston. Water is from city hydrants.

The walk was in the neighborhood of Elm St around the DPW building. We observed Ch. 90 tree plantings. Tree wells were made bigger where possible. There was discussion of proper tree planting and maintenance.

Recorded by Paula Cortes